

Soviet espionage chiefs in France named by papers

From Our Own Correspondent
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Anyone connected with intelligence activities in France knows full well that there are two heads of the Soviet espionage organization in this country, the independent left-wing weekly publication *Le Nouvel Observateur*, writes in its latest issue.

The long article is devoted to the American Central Intelligence Agency and the rivalry between its agents and those of the Soviet Union in France. It names the alleged "resident" spy of the Soviet KGB and that of GRU (the intelligence organization of the Soviet General Staff). They both appear in the diplomatic list as counsellors of the Soviet Embassy in Paris.

The independent right-wing newspaper *L'Aurore* alleges that "one of the most eminent" Soviet agents in France is military attaché at the Soviet Embassy. He is a leading personality of the GRU, the newspaper claims.

His father had played an important role of the same kind under Stalin, according to the newspaper. The son began his career as an agent in France from 1951 to 1953. Between 1958 and 1963 he was in Italy, preparing the decomposition of the regime.

Between 1963 and 1969, he disappeared from sight; but he reemerged in 1969 in the shadow of General Giap in Hanoi, to prepare the takeover of South Vietnam, *L'Aurore* goes on.

Le Nouvel Observateur says that the United States and the Soviet Union have about the same number of accredited diplomats in Paris. For the SDECE, the French counter-espionage organization, every Soviet diplomat is a potential agent. The same is not true of the American diplomats.

French intelligence organizations keep a close eye on the rare Soviet students and tourists in France, and watch the ground and flying staff of the Soviet Aeroflot airline very carefully. The CIA and the SDECE, the article goes on, also give one another tips about the arrival of suspects in France.

"In spite of some snags, relations between the SDECE and the CIA seem to be much more harmonious under (President) Valéry Giscard d'Estaing than under (General) Charles de Gaulle", Mr. Victor Marchetti, a former agent of the CIA and one of the first to reveal its blunders and its alleged "crimes", is quoted as saying: "Relations between the two organizations are surprisingly good now."

Mr. Philip Agee, another former employee of the CIA, is quoted by *Le Nouvel Observateur* as saying: "There is a kind of trial of strength going on between the KGB and the CIA. In France, as elsewhere, the Russians seek to dismantle the American network in order to speed up the collapse of capitalism."